

**Reports of *Cheilomenes lunata* (Fab.) (Col.: Coccinellidae) in Britain – winter 2001-2002**

At the beginning of January 2002, I received a ladybird from Keir Mottram. He had taken it from the coat of a guest arriving for a party in London (Middlesex, VC 21) on 26 December 2001. The beetle was large (6.5 mm) and distinctively patterned (Plate I). John Muggleton suggested that it might be the African species *Cheilomenes lunata*, and this was confirmed by reference to Iablokoff-Khnzorian (1982. *Les Coccinelles*. Boubée). Subsequently, five other findings were reported in Internet discussions as follows:

Hook, North Hampshire (VC 12), Paul Boswell;

Didcot, Oxfordshire (VC 23), Chris Raper;

Worcester, Worcestershire (VC 37), Harry Green, det. Mark Cox;

Perth, Perthshire (VC 88), Mark Simmons;

Sudbury, West Suffolk (VC 26), Lin Wenlock.



**Plate I.** *Cheilomenes lunata* (Fab.)

Photograph © P. Mabbott

Additionally, specimens from Central Science Laboratory, York were determined at the BM(NH) (Roger Booth, *pers. comm.*); these were collected on 5 December 2001 from a consignment of 496 boxes of Cape Thompson seedless white grapes in Chepstow, Monmouthshire (VC 35) although the shipment entered the country via Sheerness, East Kent (VC 15). There were "high levels of beetles in the boxes" (Joe Ostoja-Starzewski, *pers. comm.*). Four of the other specimens were found in packets of Thompsons seedless grapes and there is circumstantial evidence that others might have come from a similar source. At least three retailers sold the grapes, one of which states that no ladybirds have been seen since December. The grapes were grown in the north-west region of South Africa over a wide area along the Orange River on the border of Namibia. The aphidophagous species is Afro-tropical in distribution but is found as far south as Cape Town. Sibling species have been employed in biological control but I have found no indications of *C. lunata* being so used. Only the Suffolk specimen, found during the first week of February, was dead. At least two remain alive, refrigerated, at the time of writing. My thanks to all the entomologists noted for records and advice.— PAUL MABBOTT, 49 Endowood Road, Sheffield S7 2LY.

***Duponchelia fovealis* Zell. (Lep.: Pyralidae) recorded in Somerset**

On 27 December 2001, my son telephoned to inform me that his wife had found a pyralid moth, which he was unable to identify, in their house at Burnham-on-Sea, North Somerset (VC6). He described the moth to me over the telephone and, although I could not recall the name I was certain that I had seen it illustrated quite recently. The following morning I collected the specimen and my hunch was proved correct – it was a perfect male of *Duponchelia fovealis*. The insect was duly photographed and then set.

On 9 January 2002 another male example of this species emerged inside the house at Burnham, and this was duly sent to my other son in Cardiff. It is thought by us that the moths almost certainly originated with a foreign orchid plant that had arrived in the house as a Christmas gift. It had been purchased from a garden centre at Brent Knoll, North Somerset during December; enquiries have revealed that the centre imports the orchids from Holland, but that they may only be potted-up in that country, and so the primary source is unknown at this stage.

These two moths appear to represent the first records of *Duponchelia fovealis* for Somerset as a whole. Most British records of this species are probably related to imported plants, although there are records of wild-caught examples that may, perhaps, be primary immigrants (e.g., the Hertfordshire example taken by Colin Plant on 20 October 2001, given in *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 255-256).— B. E. SLADE, 40 Church House Road, Berrow, Somerset TA8 2NQ.